

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 and 20-28 are active in this application.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8 and 20-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hotta, (Japanese Patent No. 2000-339467) in view of Murata (Japanese Patent No. 10-332347).

Claims 9 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over a combination of Hotta, (Japanese Patent No. 2000-339467), (Japanese Patent No. 10-332347) and Anderson (USPN 5,640,170).

By this response, Applicants wish to rely upon their priority date of September 26, 2000 and herewith file an English translation of priority document 2000-291489, filed in Japan on September 26, 2000, which is prior to the publication date (December 8, 2000) of Hotta.

Since Hotta is not a valid reference with respect to the present application, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-9 and 20-28 is respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is urged that the application overcomes the rejection of record and is in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendment and favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

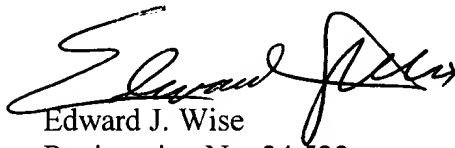
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

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including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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